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UP LIKE THUNDER.

THOSE PLACES DON'T  
USUALLY INCLUDE THE  
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JUST OFF THE COAST  
OF SCOTLAND.

BUT, AS  
THE CREW OF  
THE TRAWLER,  
"AUDREY II",  
ARE ABOUT TO  
DISCOVER, THIS  
MORNING IS  
DIFFERENT.

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IMAGINARY WAR SCENE SHOWN



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\*SUFFERED IN X-MEN #119--ROG.





I'VE SCOUTED THE ENTIRE ISLAND FROM THE AIR, CYCLOPS. THERE ARE NO SIGNS OF ANY INTRUDERS... OR OF OUR FRIENDS.

HEAD FOR THE LAB, STORM. THAT'S WHERE I'M BETTING WE'LL FIND THEM.



AND, DEEP INSIDE THAT COMPLEX...

COMPLETE DARKNESS... NOT EVEN EMERGENCY LIGHTS!

FROM THE FUSE BOXES I'VE SEEN, EVERY CIRCUIT IN THE PLACE MUST HAVE OVERLOADED AND BLOWN AT ONCE.



BUT WHO HAS THE POWER TO DO THAT? LORNA? OR... MAGNETO!

YIKES!

FREEZE!



HAVOK!

DON'T SHOOT! IT'S ME, NIGHTCRAWLER!

SORRY, BUSTER-- NIGHTCRAWLER'S DEAD, AND I STOPPED BELIEVING IN GHOSTS LONG AGO. NOW, STEP OUT WHERE I CAN SEE YOU OR I'LL BURN YOU DOWN.

HE STILL THINKS WE'RE DEAD! AND THE CORRIDOR'S TOO DARK-- I BECOME NEAR-INVISIBLE IN THESE DEEP SHADOWS. I'D BETTER PORT OUT OF HERE AND GET CYCLOPS.



BUT BEFORE NIGHTCRAWLER CAN DO ANYTHING...

WHAT THE--?!

YOU MAY BE STRONG, PAL, BUT LET'S SEE THAT STRENGTH SAVE YOU--



--FROM THE COSMIC POWER OF HAVOK!!



I HAVE FACED YOUR ENERGY BLASTS BEFORE, MY AMERICAN FRIEND-- AND WITHSTOOD THEM.

HUHT! COLOSSUS! YOU'RE ALIVE!!

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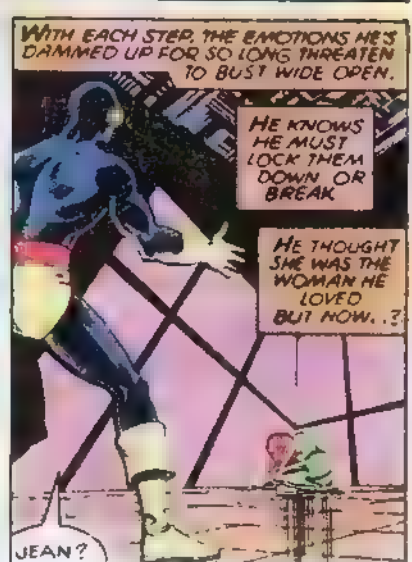
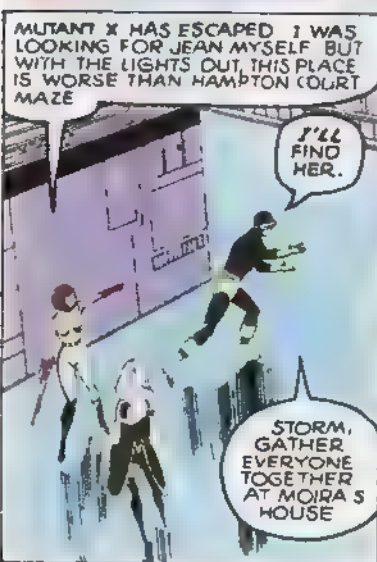
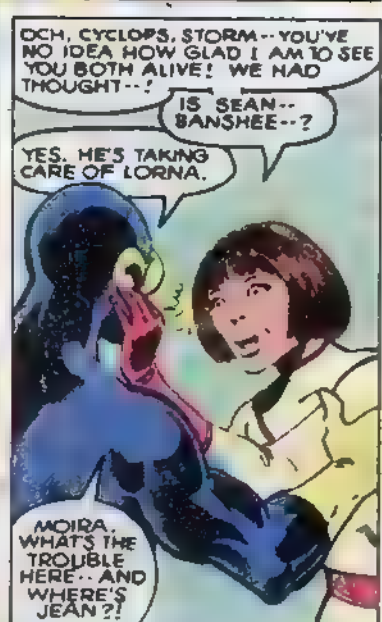
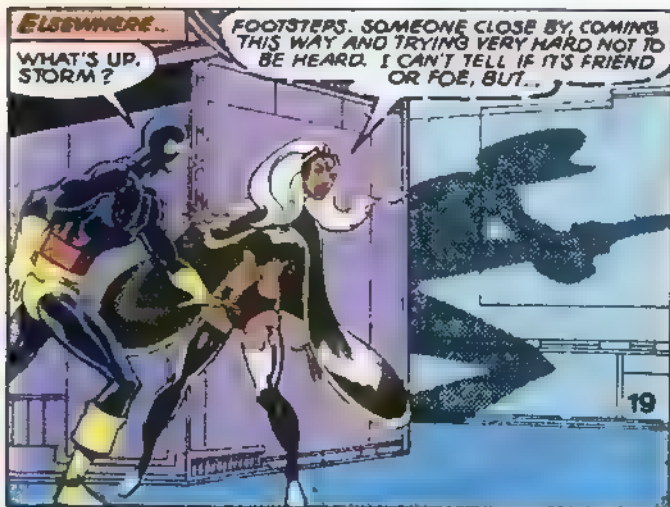
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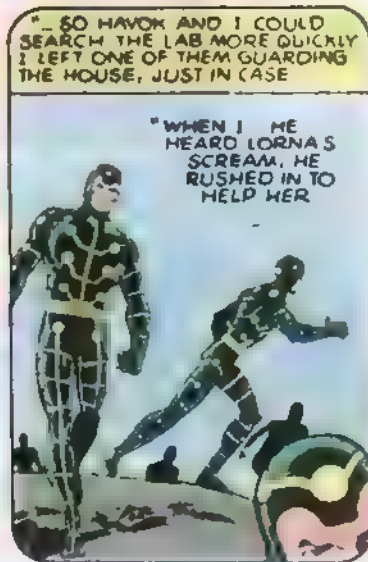
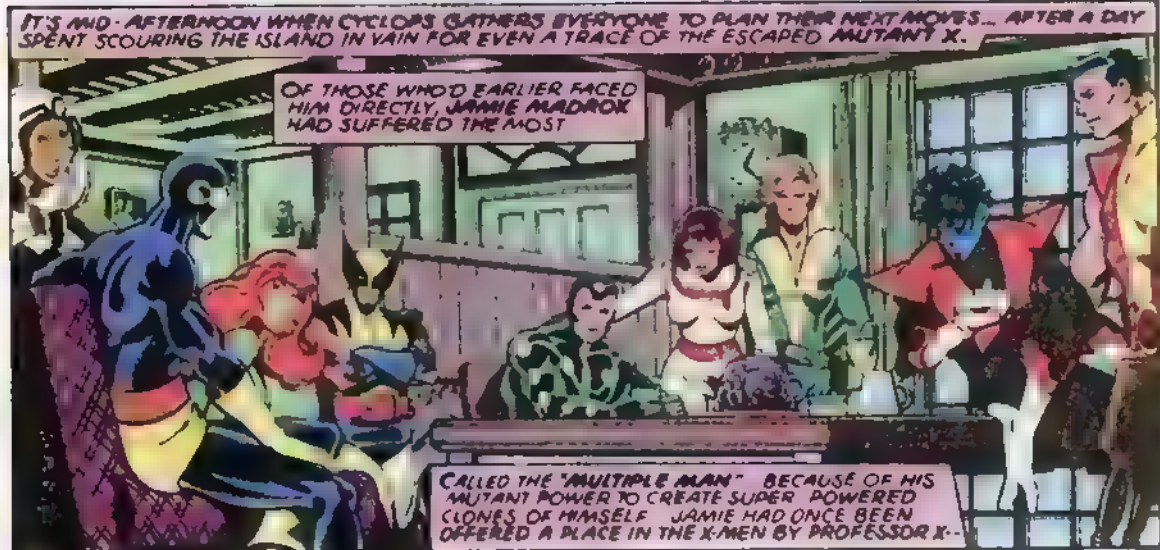
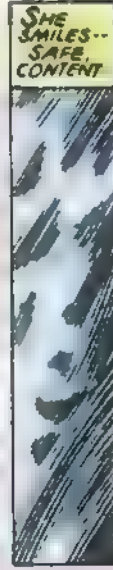
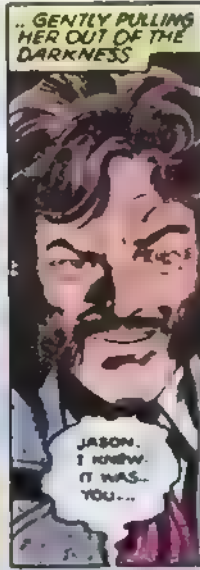
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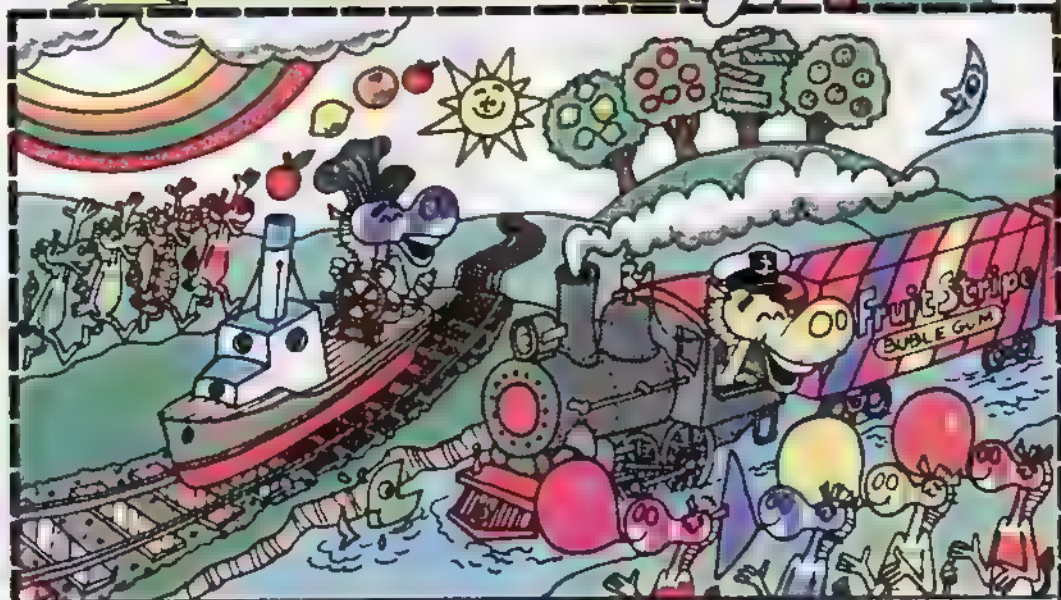


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1. Correct answers not necessary for entry.
2. No purchase necessary. To enter print your name, address and zip code on the official entry card on a piece of paper. Your entry must include two (2) wrappers from either Fruit Stripe Gum or Fruit Stripe Bubble Gum or print the words "Fruit Stripe Gum means Fruit Stripe Fun" on a piece of paper.
3. Entries from other countries, but entries must be submitted by mail. Entries must be postmarked no later than 11:59 PM, 10/31/99 and received by Nov. 10, 1999.
4. Winners will be determined in a random drawing conducted by Venus & Associates, an independent auditing & accounting firm. All winners will be notified by mail. Odds of winning are 1:100,000.

5. No substitutions or exchanges for prizes offered. All federal, state and local laws apply when in New York County, Maryland, and wherever prohibited or restricted by law. Liability for losses is the sole responsibility of the entrant.
6. Sweepstakes ends 11:59 PM, 10/31/99. Residents under 18 years of age in state of entry only. Not open to employees and their families of C&W Savers, Inc. or their sales, advertising and judging agencies.

Mail entries to:  
**Fruit Stripe Gum Sweepstakes**  
P.O. Box 7995  
Westbury, New York 11592

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**GRAND PRIZE:** A trip for 4 to Walt Disney World Vacation Kingdom, including airfare and hotel for 5 days/4 nights.

**SECOND PRIZE:** 10 Ten Speed Bicycles.

**THIRD PRIZE:** 100 Transistor Radios.

**FOURTH PRIZE:** 1,000 Boxes\* of Fruit Stripe Bubble Gum.

Regular and Bubble Gum

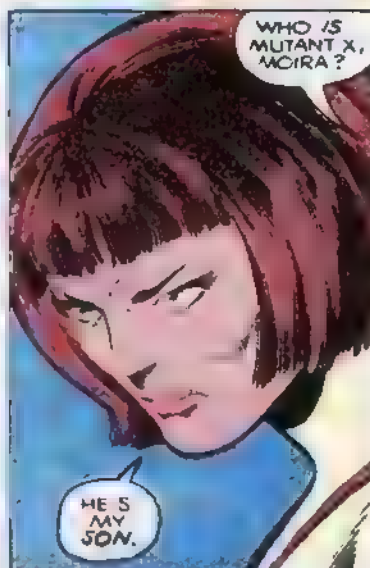
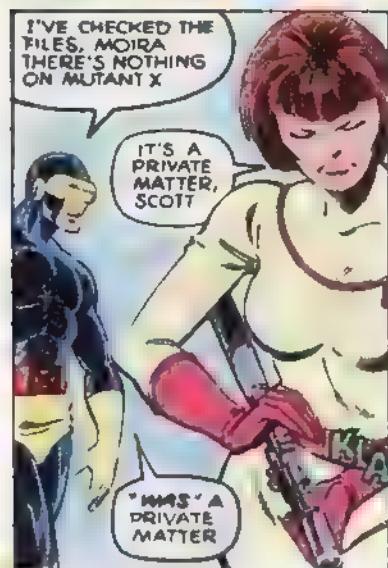
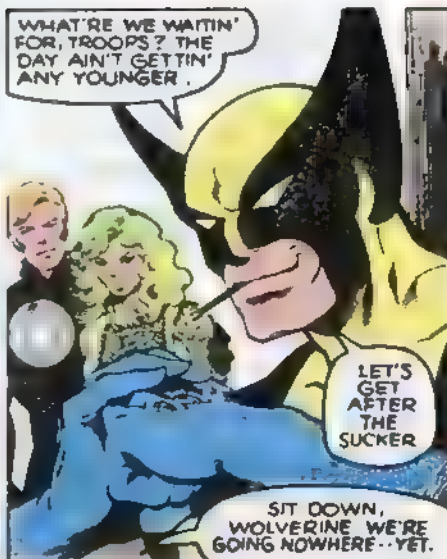
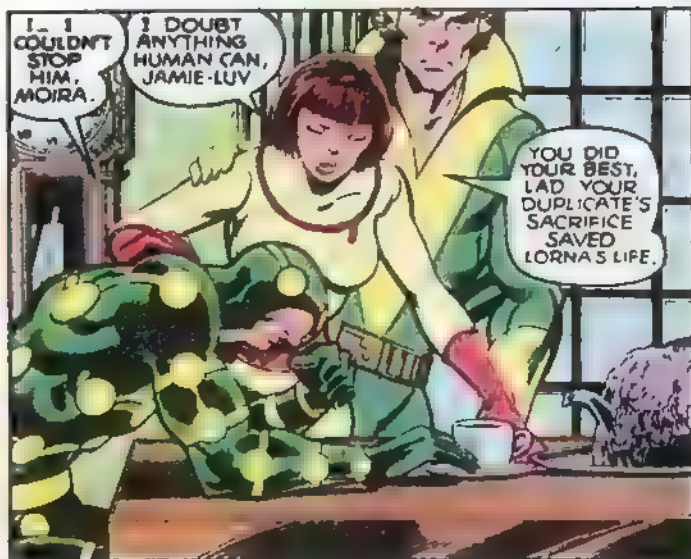
**Fruit Stripe Gum**  
means  
**Fruit Stripe Fun**



20 packs per box

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HE SLIPPED OFF MUIR ISLAND AT THE HELM OF ANGUS MACWHIRTER'S HIDDEN BOAT AND, AFTER A FEW HOURS' JOURNEY, HE CAME AT LAST TO STORNOWAY.



ONCE MORE... I HUNGER...



I AM CONSUMING THIS SHELL TOO QUICKLY. MUST FIND... REPLACEMENT...

SUDDENLY, THE DOOR OF THE RED LION INN IS FLUNG WIDE, AND JASON WYNGARD STEPS OUT INTO THE COOL, NIGHT AIR.



LIKE MUTANT X, HE'S A MAN OF MANY SHAPES AND FACES--

--A MAN WHOSE SOUL IS AS BLACK AS THE DEVIL'S OWN.

HE HAS MADE HIMSELF THE MAN OF JEAN GREY'S DREAMS. SOON NOW, HE PLANS TO WIN HER LOVE.



AND THROUGH THAT LOVE, BIND HER TO HIM.

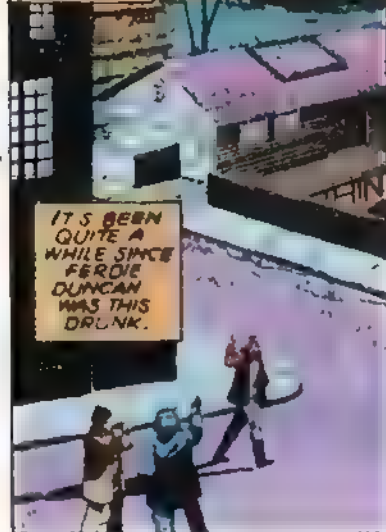
THAT IS, ASSUMING HE LIVES...

WHAT--?? IT CANNOT BE! HE HAS SOME KIND OF-- PSYCHIC SHIELD-- BLUNTING MY ATTACK. I AM TOO WEAK TO SMASH THROUGH.



MUST LET THIS PREY... ESCAPE!

A LITTLE LATER, DOWN BY THE DOCKS, SOME FRIENDS BID EACH OTHER FOND FAREWELL AND HEAD FOR HOME.

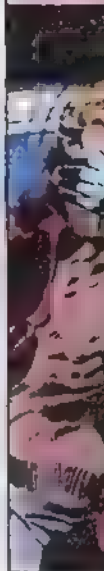


IT'S BEEN QUITE A WHILE SINCE FERDIE DUNCAN WAS THIS DRUNK.

HE KNOWS HIS WIFE WILL READ HIM THE Riot ACT THE MOMENT HE WALKS IN THE DOOR.



HE'S WRONG.



HE'LL NEVER SEE HIS HOME, OR WIFE, AGAIN.



EXCELLENT. THIS SHELL IS YOUNG... STRONG. IT WILL SERVE ME WELL.



NO ONE ON MUIR ISLAND GETS MUCH SLEEP THAT NIGHT AND THEY'RE ON THE MOVE BEFORE DAWN FIRST TO STORMWAY-- AFTER HEARING POLICE REPORTS ON THE DISCOVERY OF ANGUS MAC WHIRTER'S LAUNCH AND THE MUMMIFIED REMAINS OF THE MADROX CLONE



... AND THEN, ACROSS THE NORTH MINCH TO SCOTLAND ITSELF

I THINK IT'S SAFE TO ASSUME THAT MUTANT X CROSSED OVER HERE HE'S ON THE RUN-- THE BEST PLACE FOR HIM TO HIDE-- WHERE HE CAN STILL FIND A CONTINUOUS SUPPLY OF HOST BODIES IS A BIG CITY

IN SCOTLAND, THAT MEANS INVERNESS, ABERDEEN, GLASGOW AND EDINBURGH



FINDING HIM WON'T BE EASY WE DON'T KNOW WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE NOW, HOW HE'S TRAVELLING-- OR WHICH WAY-- OR HOW MUCH OF A HEAD START HE'S GOT

WORSE, HE DOESN'T SEEM TO REGISTER ON CEREBO, OR ANY OTHER MECHANICAL SENSOR



"WE'VE GOT A LOT OF GROUND TO COVER, SO I'M SPLITTING US INTO FOUR SEARCH TEAMS, WITH STORM AND PHOENIX ACTING AS AIRBORNE SCOUTS IF ANYONE SPOTS ANYTHING



"-- NO MATTER HOW TRIMAL, LET ME KNOW LET'S ROLL, X-MEN."

SUPPOSE HE'S OUT FOXED US, SCOTT? SUPPOSE HE NEVER LEFT STORMWAY?

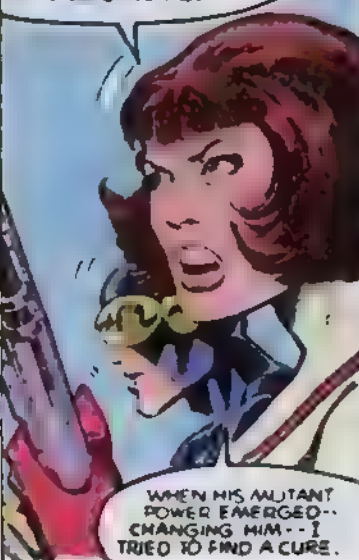
THAT'S PARTLY WHY I LEFT JAMIE BEHIND-- TO MONITOR POLICE RADIO FREQUENCIES



IF ANY MORE MUMMIES PULP UP, HELL CALL ME

TH'S MUST BE PRETTY ROUGH ON YOU MOIRA

AYE HE WAS A BEAUTIFUL BABY, Y'KNOW I HATED HIS FATHER, BUT I LOVED HIM I-- STILL DO.



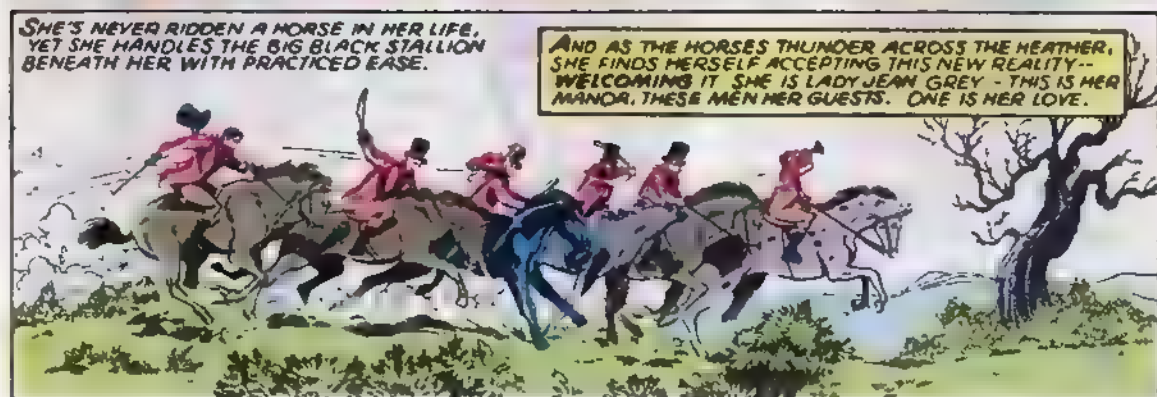
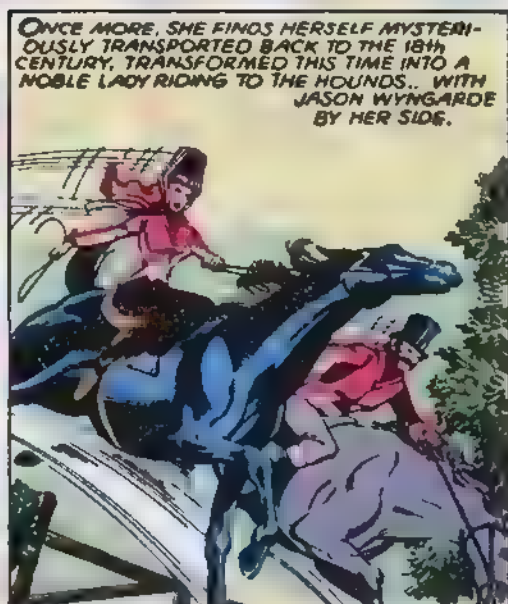
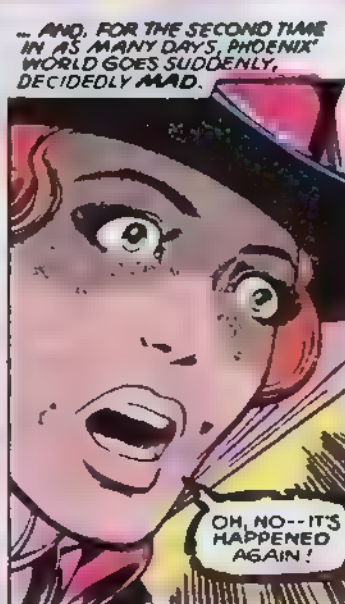
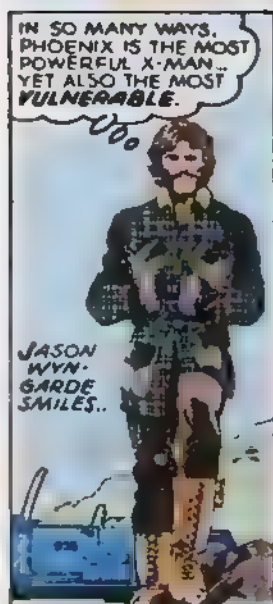
WHEN HIS MUTANT POWER EMERGED-- CHANGING HIM-- I TRIED TO FIND A CURE.

I FAILED. HE HAS TWO FUNDAMENTAL WEAKNESSES HIS CONSTANT NEED FOR NEW HOST BODIES AND METAL



HE CAN'T ABIDE NON-ORGANIC MATERIALS. METAL CAN IMPRISON MUTANT X OR DESTROY HIM





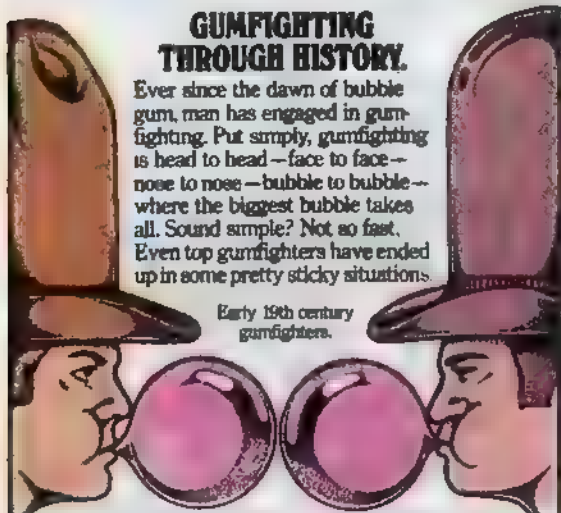


# GUMFIGHTING PRACTICE AND TECHNIQUES.

## GUMFIGHTING THROUGH HISTORY.

Ever since the dawn of bubble gum, man has engaged in gumfighting. Put simply, gumfighting is head to head—face to face—nose to nose—bubble to bubble—where the biggest bubble takes all. Sound simple? Not so fast. Even top gumfighters have ended up in some pretty sticky situations.

Early 19th century gumfighters.



## THE CHEW TO CHOOSE.

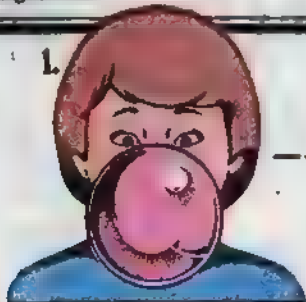


To get you started off on the right foot, we'd like to get you started off on the right bubble gum. New Hubba Bubba™ Bubble Gum. Soft and juicy Hubba Bubba is the brand new bubble gum with amazing no-stick bubbles!™ That's right, no-stick bubbles! And no-stick bubbles mean you can blow bubbles as big as you want and not have to worry about them sticking to your face. Does Hubba Bubba really work? 98.8% of the faces tested said yes.

## GUMFIGHT PRACTICE DRILL.

The secret to becoming a great gumfighter is practice, practice, and more practice. And the only gum to practice with is new Hubba Bubba. So pick up a pack and pop a soft, juicy chunk in your mouth. While you're enjoying that great long lasting Hubba Bubba flavor, proceed with this simple yet effective gumfight drill:

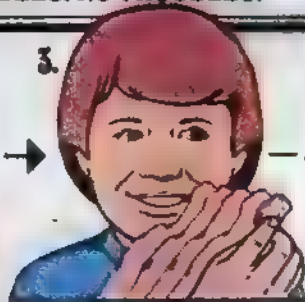
© 1979 Wm. Wrigley Jr. Co.



1.



2.



3.

Begin blowing bubble. You will note that Hubba Bubba's amazing formula lets you blow an incredibly large bubble.

When the Hubba Bubba bubble breaks do *not* be alarmed Hubba Bubba is not your ordinary bubble gum.

Simply remove Hubba Bubba from your face. That's right, simply remove and replace in mouth. Return to step 1

After you have mastered this basic gumfighting technique, try it out on someone. Remember for a successful gumfight, be

sure your opponent is *not* chewing Hubba Bubba Bubble Gum—the soft and juicy bubble gum with amazing no-stick bubbles.

## ALL BUBBLE GUMS ARE NOT ALIKE.

Other bubble gum.

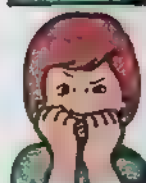
Hubba Bubba Bubble Gum.



The kid on the left is blowing bubbles with another gum. The kid on the right is blowing bubbles with new Hubba Bubba. Note the size of that Hubba Bubba bubble.



As you see, a sticky situation is developing on the left. But not on the right.

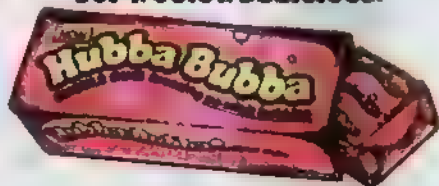


Notice the Hubba Bubba bubble comes right off the face and goes back in the mouth. As for the bubble gum on the left, those are the breaks.

To be sure you're getting the genuine article (Hubba Bubba in original or mint flavors), study the picture below very carefully. Then repeat: Hubba Bubba—Hubba Bubba—Hubba Bubba—Hubba Bubba—Hubba Bubba—Hubba Bubba—Hubba Bubba.

Get some delicious new Hubba Bubba soon and see for yourself. Your bubble troubles are over.

**SOFT. JUICY. DELICIOUS.**



**BIG BUBBLES. NO TROUBLES.**



# X-MAIL

© MARVEL COMICS GROUP  
575 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10022

ROGER STERN  
EDITOR  
JIM SALICRUP  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Magnificent Marvel,

Wow! Finally, Canada is in comics. I was amazed to see that Canada has some superheroes worthy of their title. A hairy guy strong as the Hulk, a Canadian Captain America, a native wizard, and two seemingly connected siblings. It's a dream come true! My inferiority complex went down the drain as I saw Nightcrawler blasted and the X-Men's plane destroyed. I want more! Canada as a whole wants more! If you doubt this, you should have been watching TV and reading newspapers in Alberta. MacLean's had Pierre Trudeau's picture in it, so did the *Edmonton Journal* and so did many news programs on television. It's most heartening to discover that Alberta isn't just a supplier of beef and oil, that we have our occasional exciting moment, it was a lift to my spirit in these days of \$1.18 American dollars. Just one—no, two, complaints. The major one, on which you've probably already received tonnes (metric) of mail, is "Ottawa." Come now, surely the spelling of your neighbor's capital is drilled into every schoolchild's head in America. The other fault is also major—Major Maple Leaf. Can't you think up a better name than that? Marvel Man changed his name to Quasar, so why don't you do the same with Major Maple Leaf? But, all the same, I beg of you—more Canada! After all, we do buy your comics.

Heather Proctor  
18 Greenwich Crescent  
St. Albert, Alberta, Canada

Actually, Heather, if you'll take a fast look at X-MEN #120, page 14, panel 3, and #121, page 3, panel 1, you'll see that we have given James Hudson/"Major Maple Leaf" a name; he's called the Vindicator. As for the "Ottawa" controversy, you're right, we received countless letters chastising us for the error, and correcting us for it. Though we explained why that booboo saw print last issue again we apologize. Thanks muchly for your letter, Heather, it typified the vast majority of the letters we received—from above and below the border—commenting on the introduction of Alpha Flight, and their donneybrook with our Merry Mutants. As far as seeing them again is concerned, Sasquatch will be putting in a guest appearance in this summer's HULK ANNUAL—scripted by X-editor Roger Stern and John Byrne! And you'll probably be seeing that team of Canadian heroes again, in either X-MEN of MARVEL PREMIERE. If you readers are interested in an Alpha Flight book—write and let us know.

Dear X People

X-MEN #121 was really a fabulous issue. At the beginning, I was sort of in the dark about what was going on, because the place where I buy my comics didn't have X-MEN #'s 119 & 120, but I caught on quick, as you people make it so easy for people like me to know what had happened in the last issue. The whole story was great and very realistic. The X-Men were fighting to save one of their own team members (not to save the world or, sometimes more ridiculously, the universe) which made the fight more personal to them.

Alpha Flight is a very original group and represents Canada well. Some criticism, though. Vindicator looked like a remodeling of Captain Canuck. There were some noticeable differences, though. The maple leaf going from front to back gave him some originality—as well as creating a team style. Aurora's and Northstar's white stars on their waistlines go from front to back in the same way. Sasquatch looked too much like the Hulk, and is too wide for a Bigfoot, but the rest are all original and I hope to see the whole group again in X-MEN or elsewhere.

This issue portrayed our "Merry Mutants" well. A lot of personality showed through. And in the way of performance, I think the scene where Storm diffuses the blizzard gave me more insight into her power, which I thought (for a while) quite ridiculous—for how could anyone have power over the weather? The scene deepened my knowledge of how her very strange, but powerful, power ticked.

And now for Wolverine. He's always been my favorite X-Man. There was always something special about him; and his personality and character showed through in most every issue. A short, quick tempered Canadian. Ideal. His claws, ferocity, and very style of fighting and brute savagery makes him my favorite character in all Marveldom. His costume is terrific! Enough of that. Wolverine was excellent in this issue. His stopping Cyclops from fighting was good. When Alpha Flight took him away in the truck, I really began to think that this was the end of Wolverine. How wrong I was. The ending was excellent. The old Wolverine spirit showed through. I knew at long last I'd never see Wolverine give up.

And one final comment before I go. I was wondering what Wolverine's claws were made of and went searching through some of my other X-MEN mags. I found they were made of Adamantium. Now, what I'm wondering is this: is Adamantium really a kind of metal? Please explain.

Marc Katz  
91 Overbrook Place  
North York, Ontario, Canada

We'll do our best, Marc. Adamantium was introduced by Rascally Roy Thomas in AVENGERS #86. Supposedly invented by Dr. MacLean—a SHIELD scientist—Adamantium is the densest, most impenetrable metal known to man. Any object made of or with Adamantium would be, for all intents and purposes, invulnerable. For example, the original test bar of the metal withstood the combined onslaught of Thor's hammer and Iron Man's full power repulsor rays. That, we think, should give you folks a fair idea of how deadly Wolverine's claws are. Not to mention, the little man himself.

Dear People

In X-MEN #120, page 2, panel 7, I says "Dr. Walter Langkowski, PhD—former Air Force linebacker turned Professor of, etc." But in X-MEN #121 page 18, panel 5, Sasquatch says to Colossus "I've taken worse from the Steelers' Front Four" if he was a linebacker (on defense) then how could he have played another defense? He could have played the Steelers' offense; but not the defense. Other than that, it was the best ish since (uhhhh) #120. Anyway, till Colossus' armor rusts, MAKE MINE MARVEL!

John Kovachik  
1107 10th St.  
Rock Springs, WY 89201

CLAREMONT!!!!

Seriously, John, no one regrets that dumb mistake more than (no longer) Cheerful Chris—especially after Jim "Trouble" Shooter quietly explained the facts of football life to him, hammering a fist down on Chris' head for emphasis. Y'see, Jim hails from Pittsburgh, home of the aforementioned Steelers, and he looks askance at anyone who treats them—or the game they play—lightly. Chris promises he'll never make a mistake like this again—because, if he does, Jim promises to introduce him to that very same Front Four... on the playing field!

**NEXT ISSUE** Storm faces certain death, with no fellow X-Men able to save her. Plus, the origin of Proteus. Plus, the introduction of Moira MacTaggart's husband. Plus, thrills, chills, a battle royal in the streets of Edinburgh and a shock ending. Be here on 30, people, where you'll learn. "THE QUALITY OF HATRED!"



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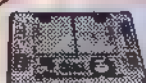
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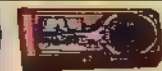
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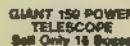
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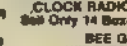
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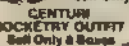
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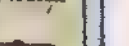
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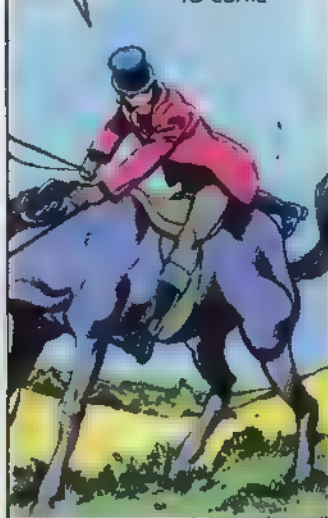
\* This free phone service only available in the 48 Continental United States



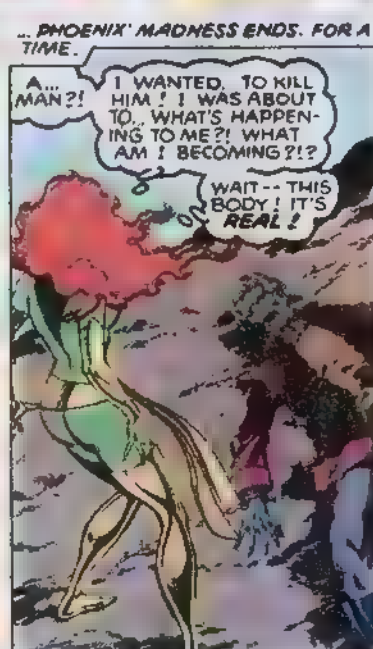
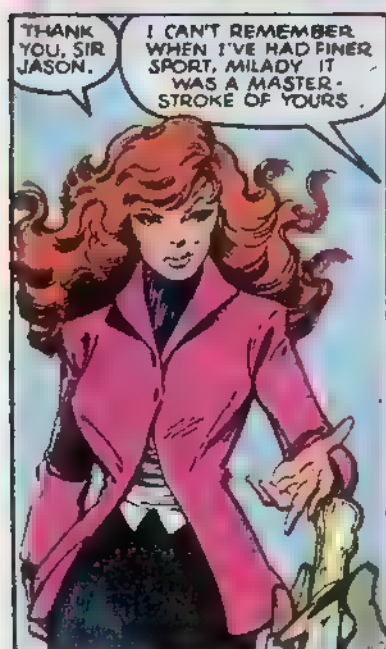
HE SOON OUTSTRIPS THE OTHERS, BECOMING THE FIRST TO REACH THEIR PREY.



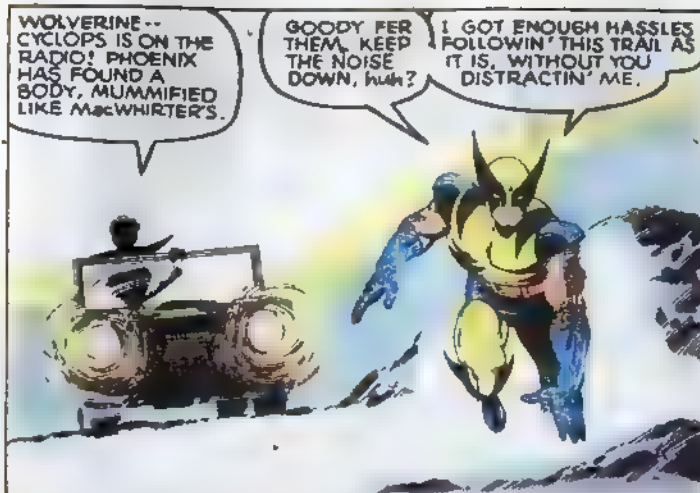
I'LL DEAL WITH 'EM, MILADY.



SIR JASON WYNGARDE, MASTER OF THE HUNT!



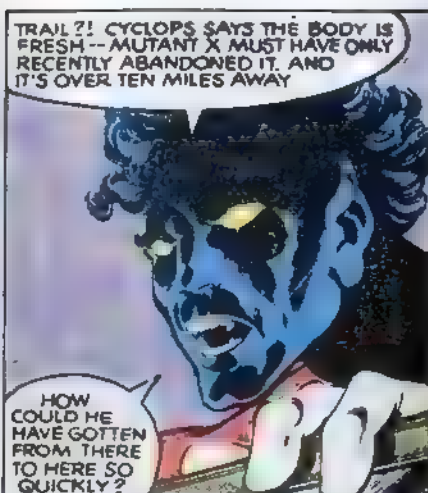




WOLVERINE--  
CYCLOPS IS ON THE  
RADIO! PHOENIX  
HAS FOUND A  
BODY, MUMMIFIED  
LIKE MACWHIRTER'S.

GOODY FER  
THEM, KEEP  
THE NOISE  
DOWN, huh?

I GOT ENOUGH HASSLES  
FOLLOWIN' THIS TRAIL AS  
IT IS, WITHOUT YOU  
DISTRACTIN' ME.



TRAIL?! CYCLOPS SAYS THE BODY IS  
FRESH-- MUTANT X MUST HAVE ONLY  
RECENTLY ABANDONED IT, AND  
IT'S OVER TEN MILES AWAY

HOW  
COULD HE  
HAVE GOTTEN  
FROM THERE  
TO HERE SO  
QUICKLY?



MY NOSE DON'T LIE, PAL. THOSE  
BODIES "X" POSSESSES GIVE OFF A  
DISTINCTIVE SCENT... PICKED IT UP  
JUST BEFORE WE HIT THIS FLAMIN'  
FOG, BEEN FOLLOWIN' IT EVER  
SINCE

AN' TA  
ANSWER YER  
QUESTION, HE'S  
GETTIN' AROUND  
THE SAME WAY  
WE ARE. IN A...



HOLD IT,  
LADDIE!

CAR?  
WHAT  
THE--?!

A COP!  
WHERE'D HE  
COME FROM?!  
I SHOULD  
HAVE SPOTTED  
HIS SCENT!

HEY--WE'VE  
BEEN TRACKIN'  
A LONE MAN  
IN A CAR



WHO  
EVER  
SAID  
MUTANT X  
COULDN'T  
ZAP A  
COP?!

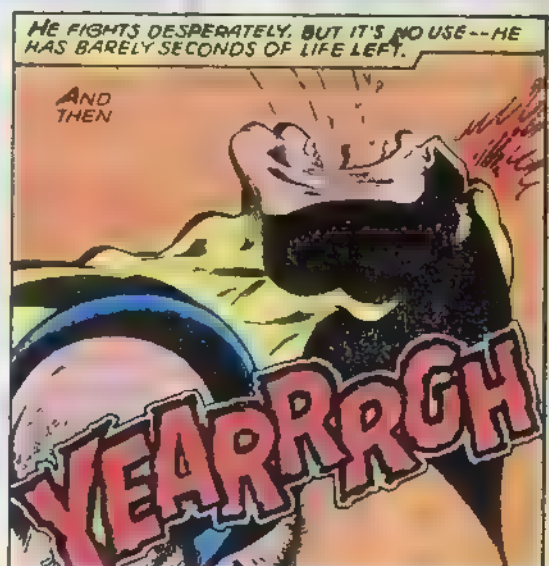
'CRAWLER'  
TROUBLE!



INCREDIBLE! YOU'VE  
SEEN THROUGH MY  
DECEPTION, BUT  
THAT WILL DO  
YOU NO GOOD.

SPARE YOURSELF NEEDLESS  
PAIN, LITTLE MAN. THIS WILL  
BE OVER BEFORE YOU  
KNOW IT.

ENERGY FLARES BETWEEN THE TWO MEN, AND WOLVERINE  
FINDS HIMSELF DROWNING IN MUTANT X'S PSYCHE.



HE FIGHTS DESPERATELY, BUT IT'S NO USE--HE  
HAS BARELY SECONDS OF LIFE LEFT.

AND  
THEN

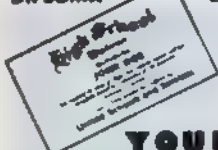
YEARRRGH



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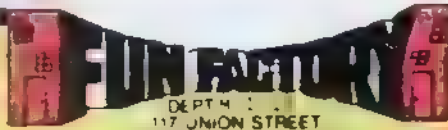




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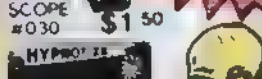
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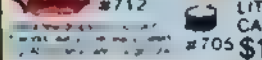
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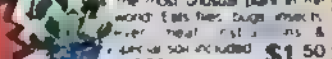
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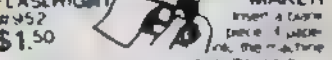
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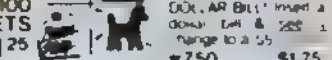
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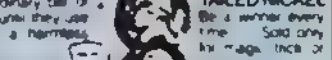
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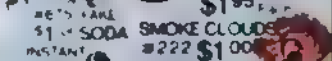
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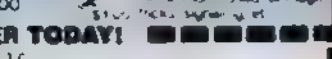
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DIMLY, WOLVERINE REGISTERS THAT IT WASN'T REALLY HE WHO SCREAMED, BUT MUTANT X-- THAT THE ROGUE MUTANT IS FLEEING HIS BODY IN A NEAR PANIC.

METAL!

THIS X MAN'S FULL OF METAL ALIEN-- DEADLY-- TO ME!

IT AIN'T JUST METAL, SWEETHEART. I GOT A SKELETON MADE OF ABOUT THREE MILLION BUCKS WORTH OF ADAMANTIUM.

BUT IF YOU THINK MY BONES ARE DEADLY--GET A LOAD OF MY CLAWS!

SHUFT

WOLVERINE, I HEARD YOUR CRY--WHAT--?!

MEIN GOTT, ARE YOU INSANE?! YOU'RE ATTACKING A POLICE OFFICER!

STAY OUTTA THIS, ELF-- YOU'LL JUST GET IN MY WAY!

TELL CYKE WE JUST CORNERED MUTANT X, AN' THAT I'M ABOUT TA PUT MOIRA'S DARLIN' BOY OUTTA ACTION-- PERMANENTLY!

ARE YOU, WOLVERINE?

I... THINK NOT

YOU CALL ME MUTANT X, BUT I'VE A BETTER NAME! I AM... PROTEUS--

"--THE MUTANT WHO MASTERS REALITY!"

IMAGINE A WORLD WHERE NO RULES EXIST...

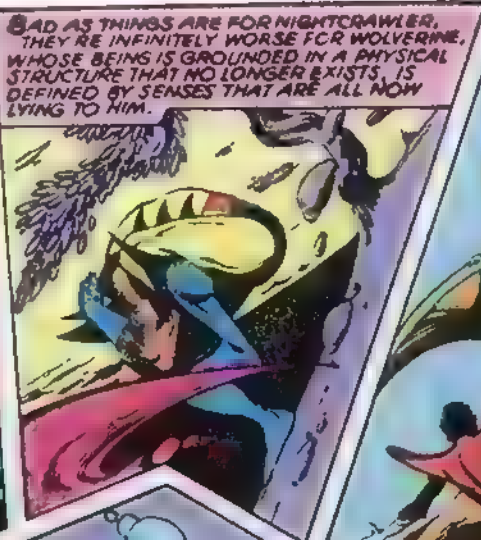
... WHERE THERE IS NO NATURAL ORDER, WHERE NOTHING IS THE SAME FROM ONE MOMENT TO THE NEXT.



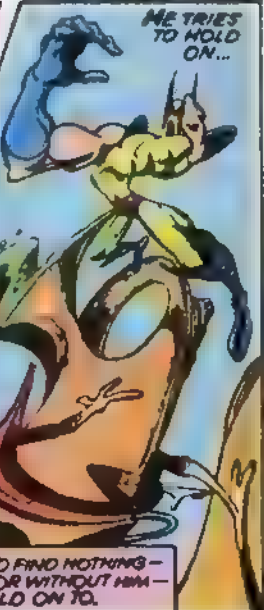


MY BODY-- IT'S BREAKING UP AND DRIFTING APART!

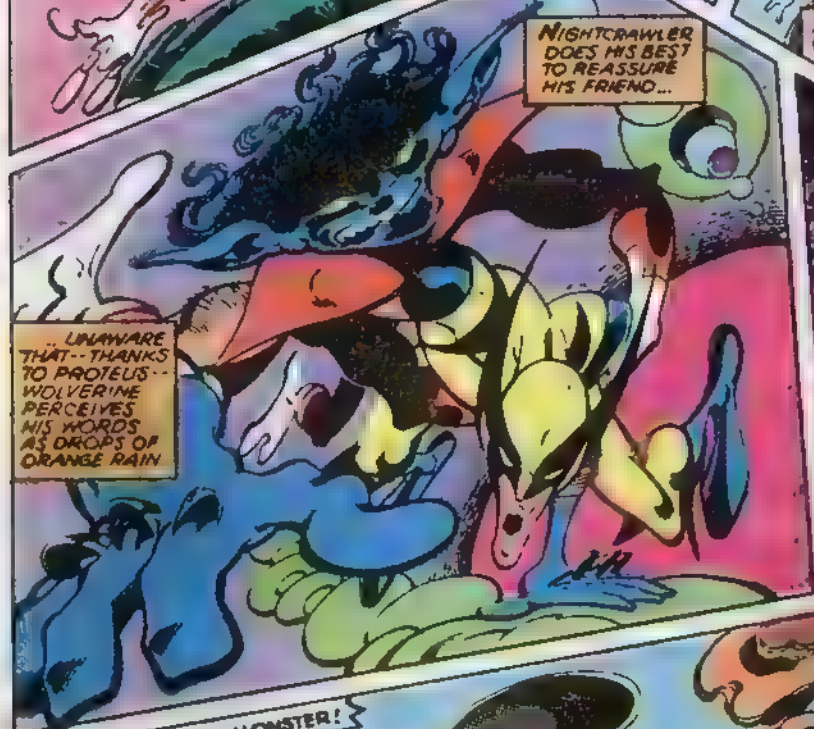
IS... THIS REALLY HAPPENING-- OR IS IT ALL IN MY MIND?!



BAD AS THINGS ARE FOR NIGHTCRAWLER, THEY'RE INFINITELY WORSE FOR WOLVERINE, WHOSE BEING IS GROUNDED IN A PHYSICAL STRUCTURE THAT NO LONGER EXISTS. IS DEFINED BY SENSES THAT ARE ALL NOW LYING TO HIM.



HE TRIES TO HOLD ON...



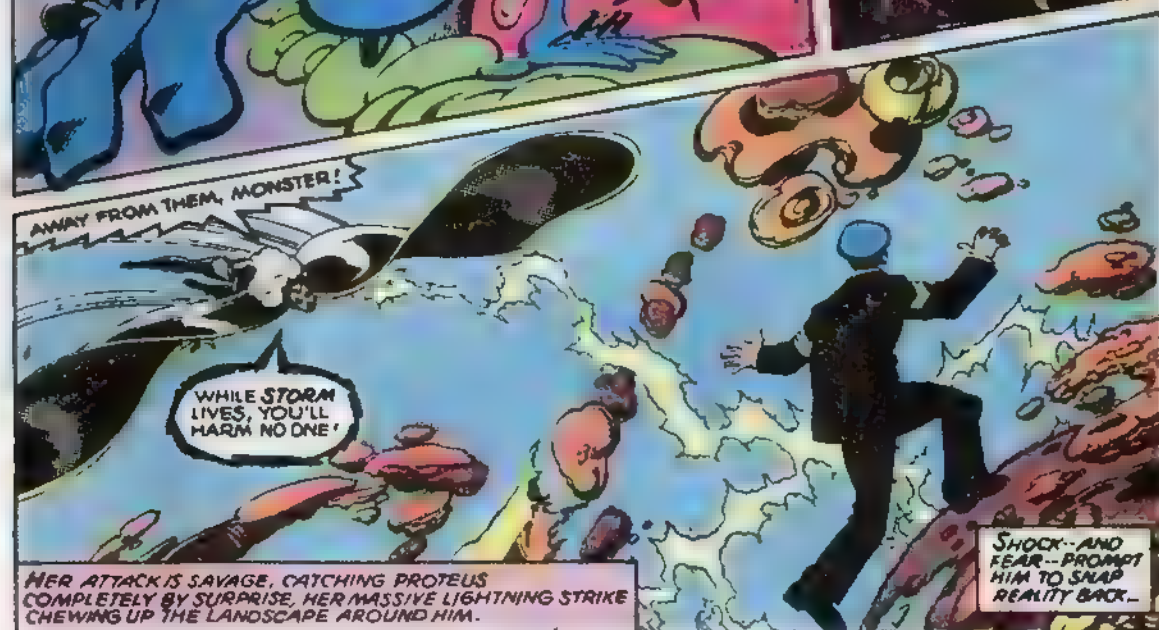
NIGHTCRAWLER DOES HIS BEST TO REASSURE HIS FRIEND...

UNAWARE THAT-- THANKS TO PROTEUS-- WOLVERINE PERCEIVES HIS WORDS AS DROPS OF ORANGE RAIN

ONLY TO FIND NOTHING-- WITHIN OR WITHOUT HIM-- TO HOLD ON TO.



I NEED... PRACTICE IN THE USE OF MY ABILITY TO WARP THE VERY FABRIC OF REALITY. YOU TWO X-MEN MAKE FITTING GUINEA PIGS.



AWAY FROM THEM, MONSTER!

WHILE STORM LIVES, YOU'LL HARM NO ONE!

HER ATTACK IS SAVAGE, CATCHING PROTEUS COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE, HER MASSIVE LIGHTNING STRIKE CHEWING UP THE LANDSCAPE AROUND HIM.

SHOCK-- AND FEAR-- PROMPT HIM TO SNAP REALITY BACK...



# BULLPEN BULLETINS

## STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hoo boy! I've had some tough columns to write in all the years I've been bringing these malfifuous little messages to the ribald ranks of Marveldom Assembled, but I've never had one that was tougher than this! Since I don't really know how to start, I might as well just take a deep breath and plunge right in.

Remember a couple of issues back when I devoted the entire column to the sensational subject of the great new mag we're about to launch? Remember how I told you it'll be the biggest and boldest thing since Thor's new hair net? And now, here comes the heart-breaking part! Remember when I told you the title would be ODYSSEY? You do remember? Gulp— I was afraid of that!

Okay, you've probably guessed the rest. After me ramming that title down your trusting little throats, we find we've gotta change it! Only to mixed-up Marvel could a calamity like this happen! We can't use the name— someone else in another part of the country has a mag with the same name. So, we've had to come up with a new one. It'll be the same pandemonious publication, the same magnificent magazine, the same sensational collection of brain-blasting strips, dynamite illustrations, and cataclysmic concepts! Only the name has been changed. So, here we go again. Disregard the previous message. Erase the other name from your bionic memory bank. Clear your cerebral circuits and reactivate all remembrance functions. Ready? Okay. The new name of the greatest magazine we've ever created—which will go on sale in the very near future—the magazine which every fantasy fan, every comicbook fan, every fan of science fiction, sword-and-sorcery, mysticism, magic, adventure, super spectacle, and high tension non-stop sheer excitement is waiting for is— hang onto your ear muffs, eager ones— EPIC! That's it; you heard us right! EPIC! It's short, stark, and to the point! EPIC! Thou

must not, thou dare not, thou shalt not forget— EPIC! The magazine that will make every other publication (except ours, of course) seem weak, and wan, and woebegone by comparison!

Well, I'm not gonna labor the point. If you don't remember it by now, don't worry. Everyone will soon be talking about it, so you'll be reminded easily enough. EPIC! Wowee, what a title! It can't possibly miss— after all, when you spell it backwards it comes out CIPEI! (I know I shouldn't have said that! You can bet some smartguy is gonna walk to the newsstand and ask for a copy of CIPEI! So forget it! Wipe it out! It's EPIC, hear? It rhymes with wopic, which— like most of what I say— doesn't mean a thing!)

Next ish I'll clue you in to some of the frankly fantastic features you'll find in EPIC. Hey, I just thought— won't EPIC look great on a t-shirt? We'll start designing one right away! So save your pennies, Puggin— the Age of EPIC will soon be upon us, and we don't wantcha to miss a single part of the EPIC celebration!

So, till next time, don't let a minute go to waste. Make a list of all the words you can find that rhyme with EPIC— we'll give a free subscription to the nut who comes up with the most! Just send 'em to THE EPIC • EPIDEMIC, c/o MARVEL COMICS, 575 Madison Ave., N.Y.C., N.Y., 10022.

And now, I've got to leave you and race back to the EPIC office. Shooter and Marshall are helping to design the contents page, and I heard a rumor that they're trying to letter their names bigger than mine!

Yours till Perry White becomes our newest editor!

EPICelsor!

*Stan*

ITEM! Looks like it's Marvel's month to take it on the chin! Would you believe that besides having a super snafu over the name of ODYSSEY...oops, EPIC, that we managed to foul up on the printing date of our sensational new FUN AND GAMES Magazine? Due to some last minute problems we had to shift around our publishing schedules and the first titanic issue, with all its perplexing puzzles, mazes, and games, didn't hit the stands until last month, instead of in April, as previously stated on this page. How embarrassing! You won't believe this, but it wasn't because we had trouble finishing the funsh-lugginer thing. Actually, we had completed the first issue well in advance, but somewhere further down the line, a glitch in the system caused the delay. Sigh! Oh, well. Anyway, rest assured, friends, that if thou ventur'st forth to thy local newsstand now, there shalt

thou find FUN AND GAMES #2, bigger and better than ever. Yes, it's chock full of brain-teasing goodies featuring our snazzy super guys and gals (Betcha always wondered what they did on their day off!) and it's only 50¢! So go get it— this time, for sure!

ITEM! We may be confused, but those friendly folks at Pocket Books know just what they're doing it seems. This month they're releasing not one but two sensational new novels featuring Marvel heroes! While you're waiting for us to get our act together, why not trot over to your local bookstore and snarf up *Call My Killer*. *Madok!* starring the invincible Iron Man, and *Nightmare* starring Doctor Strange. They're both far-out fights of fantasy-adventure and they're only \$1.95 each!

ITEM! More paperback madness! It so happens that this month our esteemed cohorts,

Grosset & Dunlap, have prepared for your enjoyment the fifth installment in the Conan paperback series! CONAN #5 features the adventures of the sullen-eyed Cimmerian originally appearing in issues 12, 13, and 16 of our Conan magazine. Great stuff! And surprise, guys, the second Battlestar Galactica paperback is here too, featuring stories from issues 4, 5, and 6! Both of these are printed in full color, on sale at bookstores everywhere, and priced to sell!

ITEM! "Hey," said our Assistant Editor, Inpatient Jim Salicrup, looking up from his gruel one lunchtime. The brownish goo drizzled greasily from his shaggy beard. "Hey, why don't we do a comic starring Alice Cooper? I hear his latest album, 'From the Inside,' is a gas." Recreational Headmaster Shooter simply sneered. "Alice Cooper? Bah! Lunchtime is finished! Back to editorial therapy!" Nurse Florio helped Salicrup into his straightjacket and he limped off snivelling. Shooter continued to sneer, but his imagination was piqued. If only the Marvel Institution could get its hands on this "Alice Cooper." A rock star! Wouldn't Dr. Lee, the Institutional Director be pleased! Perhaps this fool Salicrup could be used to trick Cooper into being... committed. Time passed, plans were hatched, machinations were effected and now... it's done! He's inside now a new face in the Marvel Madhouse! Alice Cooper is trapped in MARVEL PREMIERE #60, the grandest, wildest, weirdest, psychotic fantasy of all. Only forty crummy cents, at your newsstand, as usual. Buy it now before it... gets away!

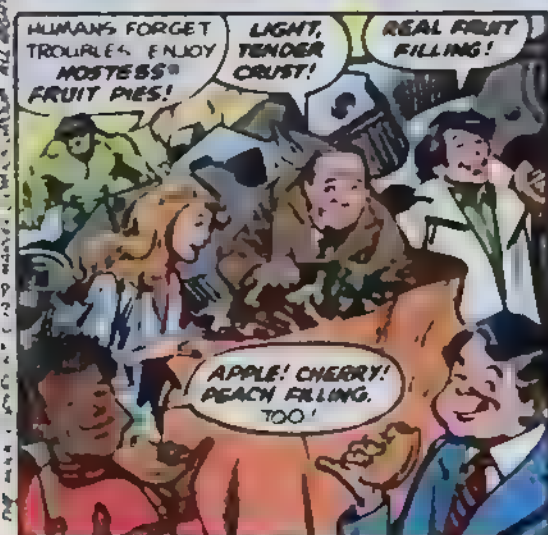


ITEM! Just a quick word or two about some other hot stuff coming at you this month. AVENGERS #188, for instance, in which Earth's mightiest heroes have to battle a whole new team of villains, not to mention the Soviet Army MACHINE MAN #11 also introduces a new villain... just one... but he's a doozie! DOCTOR STRANGE #37 ends the career of a major villain in an awesome mystic battle which climaxes the multi-part epic that's been unfolding in these past six issues! The Marvel Age rolls on.



# THE INCREDIBLE HULK

# AND THE ULTIMATE WEAPON!







TO NORMAL

THAT POLICEMAN MUST BE MUTANT X. I CAN'T ATTACK HIM DIRECTLY--

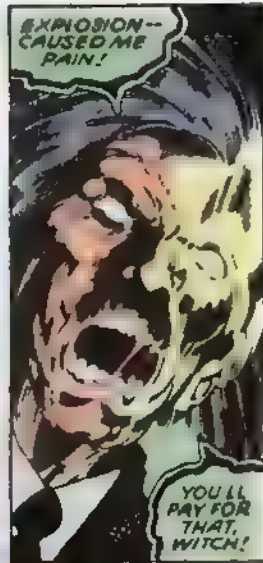
-- EVIL THOUGH HE IS, HE IS ALSO A LIVING BEING. I WILL NOT TAKE HIS LIFE.



BUT I CAN PREVENT HIS ESCAPE

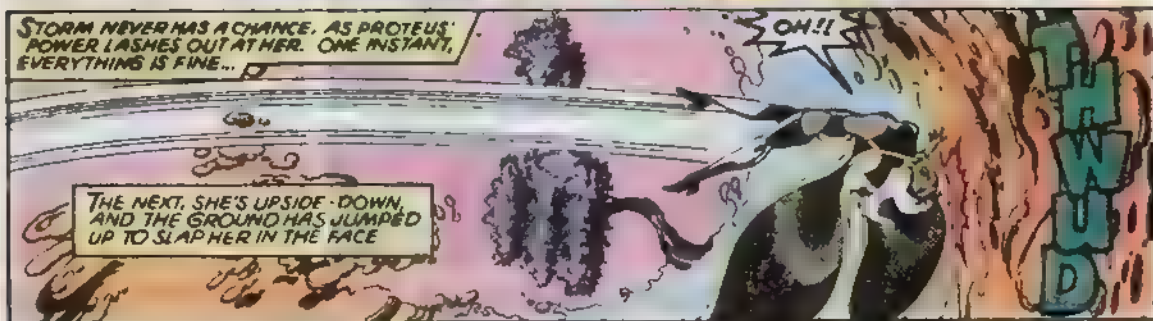
MY CAR!

SKRAM



EXPLOSION-- CAUSED ME PAIN!

YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT, WITCH!



STORM NEVER HAS A CHANCE. AS PROTEUS' POWER LASHES OUT AT HER. ONE INSTANT, EVERYTHING IS FINE...

OH!!

TWUD

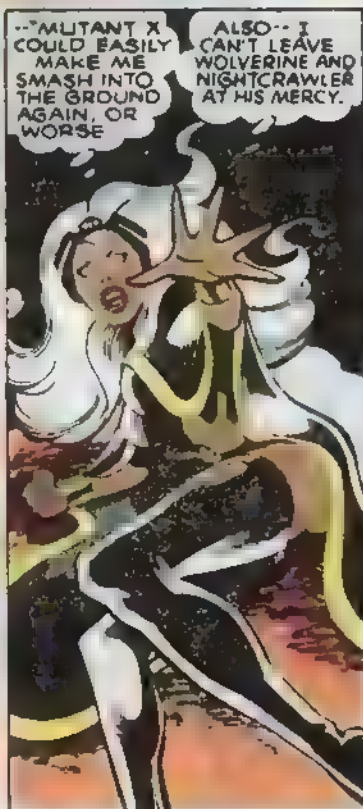
THE NEXT, SHE'S UPSIDE-DOWN, AND THE GROUND HAS JUMPED UP TO SLAP HER IN THE FACE



I CANNOT POSSESS WOLVERINE'S SHELL, AND NIGHTCRAWLER'S APPEARANCE MAKES HIM USELESS TO ME

BUT YOU, WOMAN, ARE PERFECT.

SHOULDER-- I THINK IT'S SPRAINED, CAN'T RISK... FLYING--



--MUTANT X COULD EASILY MAKE ME SMASH INTO THE GROUND AGAIN, OR WORSE

ALSO-- I CAN'T LEAVE WOLVERINE AND NIGHTCRAWLER AT HIS MERCY.



NO CHOICE-- I HAVE TO MAKE A STAND. I'M TOO GROGGY TO GENERATE LIGHTNING

I'LL TRY WIND, INSTEAD.

THE TEMPEST SEEMS TO SPRING UP OUT OF NOWHERE AT STORM'S DIRECTION. HUNDRED-MILE-PER-HOUR WINDS HURL THEMSELVES DOWN THE TINY VALLEY TOWARDS PROTEUS.



BUT ALTHOUGH STORM FOCUSES HER GALE AS TIGHTLY AS SHE CAN, PROTEUS ISN'T THE ONLY ONE CAUGHT IN ITS PATH.

WOLVERINE, STORM'S HURT! WE'VE GOT TO HELP HER!

WE CAN'T, PAL!

STAY WHERE YOU ARE, BOTH OF YOU -- AND ANCHOR YOURSELVES! THIS WIND WOULD BLOW YOU AWAY BEFORE YOU TOOK TWO STEPS!

HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT 'BORO'S RIGHT. SHE'S ON HER OWN. ALL WE CAN DO NOW IS DIG IN -- AN' PRAY!

AROUND THEM, THE SURFACE OF THE GLEN IS STRIPPED CLEAN, DOWN TO THE BARE ROCK BY STORM'S TERRIBLE, ELEMENTAL HOLOCAUST.

SHE STRIKES OUT WITH EVERYTHING SHE HAS -- HER FACE GRIM AS SHE REALIZES THAT, THIS TIME, HER BEST WON'T BE GOOD ENOUGH.

FOR, STEP BY INEXORABLE STEP, PROTEUS IS CLOSING IN ON HER, CLOSING IN FOR THE KILL.

**NEXT ISSUE** THE QUALITY OF HATRED!



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\*PLEASE... operators can only enroll new members... CANNOT ANSWER QUESTIONS OR INQUIRIES.

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# How we saved the universe with our Banana-Talkies and got back to tell about it with our Banana-Compasses.

We were on patrol when the space ship landed. My partner and I split up to get a closer look. But, before I knew it, I was captured by hostile aliens.

"I have just one request before you disintegrate me!" I said.

"Can I finish my lunch?"

I calmly pulled out my Banana-Talkie. It's a real walkie-talkie,

but it looks like a Chiquita® banana. Secretly, I beeped out our coordinates on the hidden Morse Code button.

Meanwhile, my partner used the Banana-Compass to send help in our direction. Thanks to Chiquita bananas (and some quick thinking) the invasion was stopped, and the universe is once again safe from evil.



**Banana-Talkies:** A pair of solid state, 11' Walkie-Talkies with voice volume control, telescopic antenna, Morse Code chart, secret "beep" button and belt clip. **ONLY \$13.95** and 3 stickers from Chiquita bananas. Battery NOT INCLUDED.

**Banana-Compass:** A 5 1/4" long, plastic banana that holds a liquid filled compass capsule. Inside is a rotating dial that always remains upright so it can be read easily. **ONLY \$2.50** and 3 stickers from Chiquita bananas.



## How to Order These Banana Premiums.

Please send me the following:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Walkie-Talkie Set @ \$13.95  
(Quantity) plus 3 stickers from Chiquita bananas for each Walkie-Talkie set ordered.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Compasses @ \$2.50 plus 3  
(Quantity) stickers from Chiquita bananas for each Compass ordered.

Send to: Chiquita Brands, Inc., P.O. Box 9756  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55197

Enclose check or money order made payable to Chiquita Brands, Inc. (no stamps or cash, please) plus the required proof of purchase for each item listed above.

Name \_\_\_\_\_


Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code must be included.

Allow eight weeks for shipment. Offer good only in U.S.A. and while supply lasts. Not valid where taxed, licensed, restricted or prohibited by law.



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